

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

HANNIGAN, R.,**et al**Serial No.: **09/937,937**Filed: **October 2, 2001**For: **VACUUM ASSISTED
CLOSURE SYSTEM WITH
HEATING AND COOLING
PROVISION**§
§
§
§
§
§
§

Examiner: LEWIS, Kim M.

Group Art Unit: 3743

Attorney Docket No.: VAC.482.US

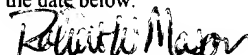
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

01/11/2005

Date


Robert W. MasonCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97
First Supplemental Statement

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of the references listed thereon. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date of the application. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(2). The Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fees to deposit account no. 500326.

Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent that issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Mason

Reg. No. 42,848

Attorney for the Applicant

Telephone: (210) 255-6271

Facsimile: (210) 255-6969

Enclosures:

Fee Transmittal

Transmittal Form;

Form PTO/SB/08A (6 pages)

Copies of non-patent references and foreign patents listed on Form PTO/SB/08A

Return Receipt Postcard



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2005

Effective 10/01/2004. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 180.00

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	2 October 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, R., et al
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Art Unit	3743
Attorney Docket No.	VAC.482.US

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number: 500326
Deposit Account Name: Kinetic Concepts Inc.

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments

☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001 790	2001 395	Utility filing fee	
1002 350	2002 175	Design filing fee	
1003 550	2003 275	Plant filing fee	
1004 790	2004 395	Reissue filing fee	
1005 160	2005 80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims: -20** = X =
Independent Claims: -3** = X =
Multiple Dependent: =

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess of 20
1201 88	2201 44	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203 300	2203 150	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204 88	2204 44	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051 130	2051 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052 50	2052 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053 130	1053 130	Non-English specification	
1812 2,520	1812 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804 920*	1804 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805 1,840*	1805 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251 110	2251 55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252 430	2252 215	Extension for reply within second month	
1253 980	2253 490	Extension for reply within third month	
1254 1,530	2254 765	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255 2,080	2255 1,040	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401 340	2401 170	Notice of Appeal	
1402 340	2402 170	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403 300	2403 150	Request for oral hearing	
1451 1,510	1451 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452 110	2452 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453 1,370	2453 685	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501 1,370	2501 685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502 490	2502 245	Design issue fee	
1503 660	2503 330	Plant issue fee	
1460 130	1460 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807 50	1807 50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806 180	1806 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	180.00
8021 40	8021 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809 790	2809 395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810 790	2810 395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801 790	2801 395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802 900	1802 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 180.00

SUBMITTED BY

(Complete if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Robert W. Mason	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,848	Telephone	210-255 6271
Signature		Date	01/11/2005		

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

133

Application Number

09/937,937

Filing Date

2 October 2001

First Named Inventor

HANNIGAN, R., et al

Art Unit

3743

Examiner Name

LEWIS, Kim M.

Attorney Docket Number

VAC.482.US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

Fee Transmittal Form



Fee Attached



Amendment/Reply



After Final



Affidavits/declaration(s)



Extension of Time Request



Express Abandonment Request



Information Disclosure Statement



Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)

Reply to Missing Parts/
Incomplete ApplicationReply to Missing Parts
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

Drawing(s)



Licensing-related Papers



Petition

Petition to Convert to a
Provisional Application

Power of Attorney, Revocation



Change of Correspondence Address



Terminal Disclaimer



Request for Refund



CD, Number of CD(s) _____



Landscape Table on CD



After Allowance Communication to TC

Appeal Communication to Board
of Appeals and InterferencesAppeal Communication to TC
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)

Proprietary Information



Status Letter

Other Enclosure(s) (please identify
below):Copies of non-patent references and foreign
patents;
Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR Section
1.97 (First Supplemental); and
Acknowledgment postcard

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name

Kinetic Concepts, Inc.

Signature

Printed name

Robert W. Mason,

Date

11 January 2005

Reg. No.

42,848

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature

Typed or printed name

Robert W. Mason

Date

11 January 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 6

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482.US

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 1355846	10-19-1920	Rannells	Figs. 1,2
		US- 2547758	04-03-1951	Keeling	Fig. 2
		US- 2632443	03-24-1953	Leshner	Figs. 1-3
		US- 2682873	07-06-1954	Evans et al.	Fig. 2
		US- 2969057	01-24-1961	Simmons	Figs. 1-6
		US- 3367332	02-06-1968	Groves	Figs. 1, 4
		US- 3648692	03-14-1972	Wheeler	Fig. 1
		US- 3682180	08-08-1972	McFarlane	Fig. 3
		US- 3826254	07-30-1974	Mellor	Fig. 2
		US- 4080970	03-28-1978	Miller	Column 1 - Column 3
		US- 4096853	06-27-1978	Weigand	Column 3, Lines 2-20
		US- 4139004	02-13-1979	Gonzalez	Column 4
		US- 4165748	08-28-1979	Johnson	Fig. 2
		US- 4245630	01-20-1981	Lloyd et al.	Fig. 1
		US- 4261363	04-14-1981	Russo	Figs. 1, 4, 5
		US- 4275721	06-30-1981	Olson	Fig. 1
		US- 4284079	08-18-1981	Adair	Fig. 3
		US- 4297995	11-03-1981	Golub	Fig. 1
		US- 4333468	06-08-1982	Geist	Fig. 2, 4

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		AU-550575-A1	08-26-1982	Wright	P.4, lines 7-10	
		EP-0100148	02- 1984	Naylor, et al	Abstract	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482.US

Sheet 2 of 6

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4373519	02-15-1983	Errede et al.	Column 4
		US-			
		US- 4392853	07-12-1983	Muto	Fig. 11
		US- 4392858	07-12-1983	George et al.	Column 3, Lines 5-58
		US- 4419097	12-06-1983	Rowland	Fig. 8
		US- 4475909	10-09-1984	Eisenberg	Figs. 1, 3, 6
		US- 4480638	11-06-1984	Schmid	Figs. 2, 3
		US- 4525166	06-25-1985	Leclerc	Column 5-6
		US- 4525374	06-25-1985	Vailancourt	
		US- 4540412	09-10-1985	Van Overloop	Column 2
		US- 4543100	09-24-1985	Brodsky	Fig. 4
		US- 4551139	11-05-1985	Plaas et al.	C1, L 66 - C2, L68
		US- 4569348	02-11-1986	Hasslinger	C2, L50 - C4, L 27
		US- 4605399	08-12-1986	Weston et al.	Fig. 3
		US- 4608041	08-26-1986	Nielson	
		US- 4640688	02-03-1987	Hauser	Fig. 2
		US- 4655754	04-07-1987	Richmond et al.	Column 1, Line 39-44
		US- 4733659	03-29-1988	Edenbaum et al.	Fig. 1
		US- 4743232	05-10-1988	Kruger	Figs. 2-4

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482.US

Sheet 3 of 6

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4787888	11-29-1988	Fox	Figs. 1, 4-6
		US- 4826949	05-02-1989	Richmond et al.	Column 1
		US- 4838883	06-13-1989	Matsuura	Fig. 7
		US- 4840187	06-20-1989	Brazier	Column 2, Line 34-42
		US- 4863449	09-05-1989	Therriault et al.	Column 3, Line 45-68
		US- 4872450	10-10-1989	Austad	Column 3-4
		US- 4878901	11-07-1989	Sachse	
		US- 4897081	01-30-1990	Poirier et al.	C3, L25 - C4
		US- 4906233	03-06-1990	Moriuchi et al.	Abstract
		US- 4906240	03-06-1990	Reed et al.	Fig. 1
		US- 4919654	04-24-1990	Kalt	Column 3, Line 8-39
		US- 4941882	07-17-1990	Ward et al.	Column 3, Line 38-64
		US- 4953565	09-04-1990	Tachibana et al.	Fig. 1
		US- 4969880	11-13-1990	Zamierowski	Figs. 1-10
		US- 4985019	01-15-1991	Michelson	Column 1, Line 47-58
		US- 5037397	08-06-1991	Kalt et al.	Figs. 1, 2, 4, 6
		US- 5100396	03-31-1992	Zamierowski	Figs. 1-10
		US-			
		US- 5167613	12-01-1992	Karami et al.	Figs. 4-5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482.US

Sheet 4 of 6

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5176663	01-05-1993	Svedman et al	C1, L55 - C2, L8
		US- 5232453	08-03-1993	Plass et al.	Fig. 2, 5
		US- 5261893	11-16-1993	Zamierowski	Figs. 1, 13, 16
		US- 5298015	03-29-1994	Komatsuzaki et al.	Abstract
		US- 5344415	09-06-1994	Debusk et al.	Column 2, Line 9 -42
		US- 5358494	10-25-1994	Svedman	Column 2, Line 34-47
		US- 5527293	06-18-1996	Zamierowski	C11, L 62 - C12, L37
		US- 5556375	09-17-1996	Ewall	C3, L62 - C4, L65
		US- 5607388	03-04-1997	Ewall	Column 3-4
		US- 4636643	06-10-1997	Argenta et al.	C6, Lines 18 - 64
		US- 5645081	07-08-1997	Argenta et al.	C4, L28 - C5, L22
		US- 6071267	06-06-2000	Zamierowski	Figs. 1-3
		US- 6135116	10-24-2000	Vogel et al.	Column 9
		US- 20020115951 A1	08-22-2002	Norstream et al.	
		US- 20020120185 A1	08-29-2002	Johnson	Fig. 3
		US- 20020143286 A1	10-03-2002	Tumey	Paragraph 26
		US- 6488643	12-03-2002	Tumey et al.	
		US- 6493568	12-10-2002	Bell, et al.	
		US- 4,233,969	11-18-1980	Lock, et al.	C2, Lines 25 - 53

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/937,937
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	HANNIGAN, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	LEWIS, Kim M.
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.482.US

Sheet 5 of 6

OTHER PRIOR ART—NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		LOUIS C. ARGENTA, MD and MICHAEL J. MORYKWAS, PHD; Vacuum-Assisted Closure: A New Method for Wound Control and Treatment: Clinical Experience; Annals of Plastic Surgery, Volume 38, Number 6, June 1997, pages 563-577; Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A.	
		SUSAN MENDEZ-EASTMAN, RN; When Wounds Won't Heal, RN January 1998, Volume 61(1); Medical Economics Company, Inc., Montvale, NJ, USA.	
		JAMES H. BLACKBURN II, MD et al.; Negative-Pressure Dressings as a Bolster for Skin Grafts; Annals of Plastic Surgery, Volume 40, Number 5, May 1998, pages 453-457; Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, USA	
		JOHN MASTERS; Letter to the editor; British Journal of Plastic Surgery, 1998, Volume 51(3), page 267; Elsevier Science/The British Association of Plastic Surgeons, United Kingdom	
		S.E. GREER, et al.; The Use of Subatmospheric Pressure Dressing Therapy to Clos Lymphocutaneous Fistulas of the Groin; British Journal of Plastic Surgery (2000), 53, pg 484-487, Article No. BJPS2000.3360, Elsevier Science/The British Association of Plastic Surgeons, United Kingdom	
		GEORGE V. LETSOU, M.D., et al. ; Stimulation of Adenylate Cyclase Activity in Cultured Endothelial Cells Subjected to Cyclic Stretch; Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery, 31, 1990, pages 634-639; Edizonia Minerva Medica, Torino, Italy	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/937,937

Filing Date October 2, 2001

First Named Inventor HANNIGAN, et al

Art Unit 3743

Examiner Name LEWIS, Kim M.

Sheet 6 of 6 Attorney Docket Number VAC.482.US

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		KOSTYUCHENOK, B.M, et al. ;Vacuum Treatment in the Surgical Management of Purulent Wounds; Vestnik Khirurgi, September 1986	
		DAVYDOV, Yu. A., et al; Vacuum Therapy in the Treatment of Purulent Lactation Mastitis; Vestnik Khirurgi, September 1986	
		YUSUPOV, Yu. N., et al; Active Wound Drainage, Vestnik Khirurgi, Vol. 138, Issue 4, 1987.	
		DAVYDOV, Yu. A., et al; Bacteriological and Cytological Assessment of Vacuum Therapy of Purulent Wounds; Vestnik Khirurgi, October 1988	
		DAVYDOV, Yu. A., et al; Concepts For the Clinical-Biological Management of the Wound Process in the Treatment of Purulent Wounds by Means of Vacuum Therapy; Vestnik Khirurgi	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.